

AN EXPERT IN PENMANSHIP.

BY
HOWARD
FIELDING

Copyright,
1896,
By Charles W.
Hooker.

It was the first time she had ever come to his office. She thought it wasn't quite proper, for he occupied a little room all alone away up in a great, high building, and she was a stickler for propriety. She had tried to get her mother to come, but her mother was afraid of the elevators, so Edith had ventured there alone.

"I can stay only one minute," she declared.

"Sit down and behave yourself," said he, with a great affectation of sternness. "There's no objection in the world to your being here. Many ladies come."

"Oh, they do!" she cried. "Well, upon my word, you are frank about it."

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beautifully, that wondrous feminine instinct which makes so much trouble in this world informed her that all was not as it seemed.

Just then there was a knock at the door, for which Jack thanked him. He answered it and found a gentleman who very courteously requested the amount of the rent. Jack could not remember having been asked to see him on any previous occasion, but this time he welcomed him as a friend and brother, for their brief colloquy gave opportunity for thought.

It proved unnecessary, however, for Edith took her departure as soon as the collector was gone, and nothing more was said about the letter. Jack escorted his fiancée across the square and saw her safely aboard a car. Then he returned to his office and made a bee line for the waste paper basket.

"Edith has it!" said Jack, speaking aloud in the excess of his perturbation. "She took it while I was talking with that beast of a collector. Of course she won't read it. She took it because she knew I would look for it as soon as she had gone, and she wanted to scare my hair gray."

The more that Jack reflected upon this conduct on the part of his fiancée the more indefensible it appeared. He resolved to make her repent of her hasty and baseless suspicions in sackcloth and ashes.

"But hold on," said he when his reflections had reached this point. "The letter really was from a girl, after all, and I certainly did lie about it."

However, this was no excuse for Edith. It merely indicated a cautious course as the best for herself. He decided that the first thing to do was to see Miss Weston and find out what was in the letter.

Jack did not do a good afternoon's work nor eat a satisfactory dinner. Very early, as New York counts the hours, he presented himself at Miss Weston's home. She lived very near Edith, though the two were only slightly acquainted.

The Westons' very correct English butler informed Jack that the daughter of the house was not at home. She had gone to her aunt's in New Haven, where the wedding of her cousin, Miss Amundson, had been solemnized that day.

Jack got an envelope and sheet of paper in the nearest drug store and penned this hasty note to Miss Weston:

Dear Miss Weston—Write anything to me that could make Edith angry if she should see it! Particulars in letter tomorrow. Sincerely,

Jack.

He cut it so very short because, just as he began to write, he saw Edith and her father pass by the store above, and he wanted to overtake them to learn

whether Edith would be at home later in the evening. In this he succeeded. Edith was not quite as cordial as the sentimental relation which they bore to each other might have led him to expect. She informed him that she would not be home till late. He might call the following evening.

About 11 o'clock the next day he received this telegram:

Mr. John Harwood, 1811 Stanfield Building, New York.

Certainly not. Miss Weston.

"Now, then," said Mr. John Harwood to himself, "I'll make Edith give that letter back to me and be very humble about it too. If she insists on knowing what's in it, I'm all right, and if she doesn't perhaps I'd better read it to her anyway."

He called that evening upon Edith, and when she came into the little music room where they always had their tea-parties she looked so utterly adorable in the prettiest of gowns that he hadn't the heart to quarrel with her.

Apparently she didn't wish to quarrel either. She greeted him just as if there hadn't been any letter.

"I wonder," said Jack in the privacy of his own mind, "whether this is because she's read it or because she's ashamed of having taken it."

Curiosity in regard to this problem eventually overcame his resolution not to quarrel, and he said:

"Edith, what did you do with the letter that you took out of my waste paper basket yesterday?"

He thought it best to introduce the subject suddenly, in that way, as if it were not one that he could possibly have any motive for avoiding.

"So it really was a letter, Jack?" said she reproachfully. "And you looked for it as soon as I was out of the way?"

"I had occasion to search the basket for some fragments of a document that I had inadvertently destroyed," said he, "and I observed the absence of the letter."

"The hair restorer, you mean?" said she idly. "Oh, Jack, how can I love a man who does not tell the truth?"

There were tears in her eyes, and Jack's heart smote him. He hadn't an atom of resentment left within him.

"How can you love a man who does tell the truth," said he, "since there

aren't any? They are born with the faculty and bred to the habit of lying. And this was such a useless, foolish lie. If you hadn't been jealous about that letter in the Howard case a few minutes before, I never should have been so absurd. But, you see, that surprised me so that I really didn't know what to expect."

"It was wrong of you, Jack," said she.

"Indeed it was," he answered. "You may be sure I will not be so silly again. The letter is from Miss Weston, and there can't possibly be any earthly reason why you shouldn't know all about it, for what has she to say to me that I could wish to conceal?"

"From Miss Weston?" exclaimed Edith. "And you called at her house last evening. Father and I saw you standing on the steps as we passed by."

Woman's Nature

is usually so full of suffering and danger that she looks forward to the critical hour with apprehension and dread. MOTHER'S FRIEND, by the penetrating and soothing properties, allays nausea, nervousness and all unpleasant feelings, and so prepares the system that she passes through the event safely with but little suffering, as numbers have testified and said, "It is worth its weight in gold." It is sold by all druggists. Book containing valuable information to all, mailed free, upon application to the BEADFIELD MANUFACTURING COMPANY, Atlanta, Georgia.

Mother's Friend

EXHIBIT OF CHALCEDONY

Process of Preparing Petrified Wood For Paris Exposition.

WORK IS COSTLY AND TEDIOUS.

Polishing Touches Being Put on the Slabs From Arizona's Stone Forest by the Mills at Sioux Falls—Three Years Already Spent in Preparing the Exhibit.

At the plant of the Sioux Falls Polishing works in Sioux Falls is being prepared for the Paris exposition an exhibit of chalcedony, or petrified wood, from the famous petrified forest of Arizona. The exhibit will embrace specimens aggregating in value several hundred thousand dollars. The polishing works in Sioux Falls is the only institution in the world which makes a specialty of sawing up and polishing this petrified wood, which is third in hardness to diamond.

Thus far 15 carloads of the petrified wood have been shipped to Sioux Falls. This alone represents a large outlay of money, owing to the great weight of the logs, the distance the petrified forest is from a railroad and the difficulty of loading and unloading the wood from the cars. On the Arizona end of the line the 15 carloads had to be hauled by team a distance of 65 miles to the nearest railroad point. The freight rates were also enormous, as the wood then had no classification in the freight tariffs of the railroads and had to be shipped as bullion.

It was shipped to Sioux Falls in great logs and stumps, some of them weighing many tons each. The largest log shipped to Sioux Falls was eight feet long and about four feet in diameter. From this the logs run from three and four to six feet in length, the petrified stumps varying from eight or ten inches high and about the same in diameter to two or three feet high and two feet or so in diameter. The wood as shipped to Sioux Falls was in excellent condition in which it was found in Arizona, where the logs and stumps have doubtless lain for ages during the process required by nature to turn the wood into stone of the most beautiful and variegated colors.

The process of sawing the stone up in proper form for polishing is most tedious. Three years already have been spent in preparing the exhibit, which will not be completed until early in the summer of 1900, when it will immediately be shipped to Paris.

When sections of the wood or stumps are selected for cutting up, they are first roughly polished to see if they are perfect. Some of the larger logs, it is found, have decayed in the center before petrifying. To roughly polish the sections they are placed, with the smoothest side up, in an upright position in a huge circular receptacle, known as the Drake bed, invented especially for the purpose for which it is used, and imbedded in cement to prevent their moving.

Huge arms, between which are securely placed other sections of petrified wood in a horizontal position and lying on the upright sections imbedded in the cement, are carried around in a circle of powerful machinery. Thus the tops of the upright pieces of petrified wood are roughly polished by other sections of the same material. When stumps or logs are found to be without serious flaws, they are placed under the saws to be sawed into slabs from an inch to an inch and a half in thickness. The logs and stumps are sawed straight through, leaving the bark in its natural state around the edges of the slabs.

The saw blades are without teeth. The petrified wood being so much harder than the saw blades, chilled steel shot is placed under the blades. These become imbedded in the edges of the saws and do the cutting. The process is a very wearisome one, as many as two complete sets of the saw blades being worn out in sawing through a section of the wood no more than 30 inches in diameter. The saws do not cut into the logs more than an average of an inch a day, thus consuming a month in cutting through a 30 inch log.

When the slabs are cut from the logs, they are taken to what is known as the "rubbing bed," where they are polished ready for the final finish. This is also done by rubbing the slabs against blocks of petrified wood. A period of from 10 to 15 days is required to complete this portion of the polishing. From the "rubbing bed" the slabs are taken to the polishing wheels, which give them the final finish. This is also very tedious, slabs 30 inches in diameter being kept under the polishing wheels from three to four weeks. In this final process the best quality of Turkish emery is used, as it is found

to give a much finer polish than any other grade. Columns are cut from the logs or stumps by circular saws. These saws, like those used in sawing the slabs, are without teeth, and the steel shot which become imbedded in the edges of the saws do the cutting as in the other case. The columns are cut from them across the grain. They vary in diameter from a few up to ten inches.

No two of the hundreds of slabs are exactly alike, the markings and colorings in each case being entirely different. One slab of 1 or 1½ inches in thickness, when sawed off a log, may, for instance, have a center in which the most vivid red predominates. The center of the very next slab, cut from the same log, is perhaps chiefly blue, black or some color other than red. The coloring is of all imaginable tints and shades, from the most delicate to the most rich and vivid.

FAMOUS PUBLISHING HOUSE

Notable Career of the Firm of Harper & Bros.

Eighty-two years have passed since the publishing house of Harper & Bros. was established. The last of the four original members of the house died more than a score of years ago, and but one member of the second generation of Harpers continued in the management when Colonel Harper entered the house. The others all belong to the third generation.

The rise of the house to prominence was almost meteoric, and the length of time during which its supremacy was sustained was phenomenal, says the New York Herald. The house for many years advanced with the times, keeping pace with every improvement and taking advantage of new facilities and adding to its reputation year by year. As the end of the century approached the house generally was conceded to be the greatest publishing concern in the world.

James and John Harper, who founded the house in 1817, had served apprenticeships in New York printing offices. They had managed to save from their meager earnings, and in that year opened a printing office in Dover street. Their first complete work was an issue of 2,000 copies of "Seneca's Morals." Other books followed, and in 1818, on a volume of Locke's "Essays Upon the Human Understanding," the imprint of "J. & J. Harper, Publishers," appeared for the first time.

As their business increased, two younger brothers, Joseph Wesley and Fletcher Harper, were taken in to learn the business. They showed the same adaptability as had their elders, and in 1823 Joseph Wesley became a partner, while Fletcher joined the firm three years later. The reputation of the house was enhanced by the publication of the celebrated series Harpers' Family Library, which at once became a standard work. New offices became necessary, and in 1825 the house removed to 81 and 82 Chiff street. After all four brothers had entered the firm James directed the mechanical operations of the establishment, John acted as financial manager, Wesley looked after the proofs and correspondence, and Fletcher, for a time foreman of the composing room, later managed the publishing department. This division of responsibility proved to be most sagacious and resulted in the stability which the house enjoyed for more than half a century.

From an establishment employing 50 persons and occupying one building in 1825 the house grew until 1,000 names were on its regular pay rolls and nine buildings were necessary to accommodate its business. The firm name of Harper & Bros. was taken in 1833, and increasing prosperity marked the house's career until 1853, when the entire establishment was destroyed by fire. This entailed a loss of \$1,000,000, on which there was an insurance of \$250,000. New buildings were promptly constructed, and the business of the house took on a still wider scope.

John W. Harper is the only representative of the second generation of the house remaining. He is the son of John Harper of the original firm. All other present members are of the third generation of publishers.



Shadow and Light

Blend most softly and play most effectively over a festive scene when thrown by waxen candles.

The light that heightens beauty's charm, that gives the finished touch to the drawing room or dining room, is the mellow glow of

BANQUET WAX CANDLES

Sold in all colors and shades to harmonize with any interior hangings or decorations.

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FOR WELL PEOPLE.

An Easy Way to Keep Well.

It is easy to keep well if we would only observe each day a few simple rules of health.

The all important thing is to keep the stomach right and to do this it is not necessary to diet or to follow a set rule or bill of fare. Such paupering simply makes a capricious appetite and a feeling that certain favorite articles of food must be avoided.

Prof. Wiechold gives pretty good advice on this subject, he says: "I am 68 years old and have never had a serious illness, and at the same time my life has been largely an indoor one, but I early discovered that the way to keep healthy was to keep a healthy stomach, not by eating bran crackers or dieting of any sort; on the contrary I always eat what my appetite craves, but for the past eight years I have made it a daily secret patent medicine, but contained only the natural digestives, peptones and diastase, and after using them a few weeks I have never ceased to thank him for his advice."

I honestly believe the habit of taking Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets after meals is the real health habit, because their use brings health to the sick and ailing and preserves health to the well and strong.

Men and women past fifty years of age need a safe digestive after meals to insure a perfect digestion and to ward off disease, and the safest, best known and most widely used is Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets.

They are found in every well regulated household from Maine to California and in Great Britain and Australia are rapidly pushing their way into popular favor.

All druggists sell Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets, full sized pkgs. at 50c and for a weak stomach a fifty cent package will often do fifty dollars worth of good.

Wheat, baled per ton, \$5.

Wheat, bulk per ton, \$4.50.

Oats, bulk per ton, \$4.50.

Oats, bulk per ton, \$4.50.

Rye, bulk per ton, \$4.50.

Rye, bundle, \$11 per ton.

Meats.

Beef, live per lb, 8 to 5½c.

Beef, dressed per lb, 6 to 6½c.

Pork, live per lb, 8 to 8½c.

Pork, dressed per lb, 5 to 5½c.

Mutton, live per lb, 8 to 8½c.

Mutton, dressed per lb, 7 to 7½c.

Lamb, dressed per lb, 8½c.

Lamb, live per lb, 4 to 5c.

Veal, live per lb, 4 to 5c.

Ham, dressed per lb, 8 to 8½c.

Shoulder, cured per lb, 7 to 7½c.

Bacon, cured per lb, 8 to 8½c.

Beef, dried per lb, 10 to 12c.

Hides.

Cured, beef No 1, per lb, 10½c.

Cured, beef No 2, per lb, 9½c.

Green, beef No 1, per lb, 8½c.

Green, beef No 2, per lb, 7½c.

Cured, calf No 1, per lb, 11c.

Cured, calf No 2, per lb, 10c.

Green, calf No 1, per lb, 10½c.

Green, calf No 2, per lb, 9½c.

Sheep, live, 7 to 8c.

Fallow per lb, 4½ to 4¾c.

Farm Produce.

Butter, Elgin creamery, per lb, 25c.

Butter, country, per lb, 18 to 20c.

Butter, cooking, per lb, 12c.

Lard, country, per lb, 6 and 6½c.

Lard, city, per lb, 6½c.

Eggs, strictly fresh, per doz, 24c.

Chickens, live, per lb, 7 to 8c.

Spring chickens, 7 to 8c.

Chickens, dressed, per lb, 8 to 10c.

Turkeys, dressed 10c.

Ducks, dressed 10c.

Potatoes, per bu, 35 to 40c.

Navy beans, per bu, \$1.75.

Marrowfat beans, per bu, \$2.30.

Maple syrup, per gal, 70 to 75c.

Onions, per bu, 40c.

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Marrowfat beans, per bu, \$2.30.

Maple syrup, per gal, 70 to 75c.

Onions, per bu, 40c.

Cheese.

York State, per lb, 18c.

Swiss, per lb, 18c.

Full cream, per lb, 16c.

Miscellaneous.

Salt, per bbl, Wadsworth \$1.10, N. Y. \$1.15.

Rock salt, per lb, 1c.

Oil meal, per lb, 2c.

Crushed oyster shells, 55c a cwt.

Crushed bone, per lb, 2½c.

Linseed oil, boiled per gal, 52c.

Linseed oil, raw per gal, 50c.

Turpentine, per gal, 50c.